



A Rededication Service for

Second Lieutenant Frank Fleming

**4th Battalion (attd. 7th Battalion), Seaforth
Highlanders**

**Tuesday 22 September 2026 at 14.00 hours
Voormezeele Enclosure No. 3, Belgium**

Service conducted by Reverend Thomas Wilde CF
4th Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Scotland

Second Lieutenant Frank Fleming

Frank was born on 15 October 1894 in Guildford, Surrey, the son of Alexander Fleming and Mary Lindsay. He had two brothers, James and Alexander, both of whom also tragically lost their lives during the First World War. His mother died when he was just three years old, and his father later remarried, having two daughters with his second wife.

According to the 1901 census, Frank's father was a farmer at Hoe Bridge Farm in Woking, situated within the grounds of Hoe Place, a historic estate with origins as an ancient royal manor. By the time of the 1911 census, Frank was living in a boarding house in Stockwell, London, and working as a Market Clerk for a cocoa merchant, reflecting a transition from rural life to the commercial world of the city.

Frank's service record did not survive, so we do not know when he joined the army, but he was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant and joined the Seaforth Highlanders, becoming part of the 4th Battalion. On 4 April 1918, Frank was attached to the 7th Battalion, who were situated in the area of the White Chateau near Hollebeke, Belgium.

On 11 April 1918, 'B' Company, under Frank's command, was positioned along the Damm Strasse, a German defensive line running between Hollebeke and St Elloi, with forward posts established on the edge of Pheasant Wood. Accompanied by one platoon, Frank advanced through the wood and joined a line in close proximity to enemy forces on its far side. The platoon then attempted to drive the Germans from their positions, but the enemy outflanked them and brought intense fire to bear.

During the fierce fighting that followed, Frank was shot and seriously wounded. Despite his injuries, he ordered his men to withdraw as best they could and steadfastly refused to allow stretcher-bearers to risk their lives attempting to carry him to safety. Later patrols were sent out to recover him, but they were unable to reach the position where he had been left. Frank was subsequently listed as missing and was commemorated on the Tyne Cot Memorial.

Subsequent research submitted by a member of the public has shown that Frank was originally buried in the area of the Damm Strasse and subsequently concentrated to Voormezele Enclosure No. 3 after the war. At the time of his concentration, the Graves Registration Unit were unable to identify Frank and he was buried as an unknown officer of the 7th Battalion, Seaforth Highlanders. After eliminating all other potential candidates, it was agreed that Frank was the only possible candidate for this grave and the headstone was changed accordingly.

Order of Service

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ
And the love of God
And the fellowship of the Holy Spirit
Be with you all.

We are gathered here today in this place of remembrance to honour our fallen in conflicts past.

We gather to rededicate and remember with thanksgiving Frank Fleming who was killed in action on 11 April 1918. He, alongside so many others, answered the call of his country, served with honour and gave his life in the service of his nation, counting service to others greater than service to self.

His sacrifice is summed up in Jesus' words to His disciples:

My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends. **John 15:12-13.**

Bidding Prayer

Almighty God, our Heavenly Father, we remember with thanksgiving all those who made the ultimate sacrifice for us in time of war. We thank you that the offering of these soldiers' lives was not in vain. By your grace, enable us this day to dedicate ourselves anew to the causes of justice, freedom and peace; and give us the wisdom and strength to build a better world, for the honour and glory of your name.

Amen.

Ghosts of War by Lieutenant Ewart Alan Mackintosh

*Read by Second Lieutenant Findlay Johnstone
4th Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Scotland*

When you and I are buried
With grasses over head,
The memory of our fights will stand
Above this bare and tortured land,
We knew ere we were dead.

Though grasses grow at Vimy,
And poppies at Messines,
And in High Wood the children play,
The craters and the graves will stay
To show what things have been.

Though all be quiet in day-time,
The night shall bring a change,
And peasants walking home will see
Shell-torn meadow and riven tree,
And their own fields grow strange.

They shall hear live men crying,
They shall see dead men lie,
Shall hear the rattling Maxims fire,
And by the broken twists of wire
Gold flare light up the sky.

And in their new-built houses
The frightened folk will see
Pale bombers coming down the street,
And hear the flurry of charging feet,
And the crash of Victory.

This is our Earth baptized
With the red wine of War.
Horror and courage hand in hand
Shall brood upon the stricken land
In silence evermore.

Scripture Reading**Ecclesiastes Chapter 3:1-11 (NIV)**

Read by Hldr Bailey Woodward

4th Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Scotland

There is a time for everything,
and a season for every activity under the heavens:

a time to be born and a time to die,
a time to plant and a time to uproot,
a time to kill and a time to heal,
a time to tear down and a time to build,
a time to weep and a time to laugh,
a time to mourn and a time to dance,
a time to scatter stones and a time to gather them,
a time to embrace and a time to refrain from embracing,
a time to search and a time to give up,
a time to keep and a time to throw away,
a time to tear and a time to mend,
a time to be silent and a time to speak,
a time to love and a time to hate,
a time for war and a time for peace.

Address

The Reverend Thomas Wilde CF

The Act of Dedication

So, let us now bless and dedicate this grave as the final resting place of the mortal remains of Second Lieutenant Frank Fleming.

O God, whose Son Jesus Christ was laid in a tomb:
Bless and dedicate, we pray, this grave as the place
where the body of your servant Frank may rest in peace,
in the knowledge that he now abides in your glory
through the merits of your Son, who is the resurrection
and the life; who died and is alive and reigns with you
now and for ever. **Amen.**

The Exhortation

*Read by Sergeant Jahvon Granger
4th Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Scotland*

They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old.
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun and in the morning,
We will remember them.
We will remember them.

Last Post

Silence

Reveille

Lament

Kohima Epitaph

Read by Sergeant Jahvon Granger

4th Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Scotland

When you go home tell them of us and say:

'For your tomorrow, we gave our today.'

Laying of Wreaths

Prayer

Let us pray. God of peace and compassion, as we lay these wreaths, we honour those who gave their lives in service to others. We remember with gratitude Second Lieutenant Frank Fleming and all who have fallen in the pursuit of justice and peace. May their courage never be forgotten, their sacrifice never be in vain, and their example inspire us to live with integrity, compassion and hope for a better world. Grant peace to the departed, and to us who remain, the strength to uphold the values for which they gave their lives. **Amen.**

Collect of The Seaforth Highlanders

Read by Hldr David MacDonald

4th Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Scotland

Almighty God, who givest salvation unto kings, teach us, thy servants, the Seaforth Highlanders, who are vowed to help our Lord the King against his enemies, ever to lift up our eyes unto the hills from whence cometh our help, even from thee, maker of heaven and earth; for Jesus Christ our Saviour's sake. **Amen**

The Lord's Prayer (all)

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come;
thy will be done;
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation;
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
the power and the glory,
for ever and ever.
Amen.

The Blessing

Go out into the world in peace; be brave and strong.
Hold on to what is good; do not repay evil with evil;
encourage those who are discouraged; support those
who are weak. Help anyone who is suffering; honour
everyone; love and serve the Lord with joy, trusting in
the power of the Holy Spirit. May God Almighty, the
Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be with you and
remain with you always. **Amen.**



The Ministry of Defence, through the Joint Casualty and Compassionate Centre, is responsible for the research, identification and burial of all British casualties worldwide.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission cares for the graves, memorials, records and memory of the 1.7 million Commonwealth servicemen and women who died during the two World Wars.

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